(c) whether Government propose to divert water from the "Swang" river to Athurvala Vistapeeth area;

(d) if so, by when;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what steps are being taken to ensure adequate and proper functioning of the tubewells in the above area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (f) According to the Government of Uttaranchal, 8 tubewells installed in Bhaniawala (renamed as Athurwala revenue village), where some affected families of Tehri Dam have been settled, are adequate for drinking water and irrigation facilities and are functioning. The State authorities are studying the proposal for providing irrigation facilities from river "SAUNG".

New policy to promote FDI in Hydro Power Sector

3290. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any new policy to promote foreign direct investment in hydro power generation sector by discouraging generation of costly power which is generated through the utilization of various petro products in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Government had formulated a policy in 1991 to encourage greater investment by the private sector in the power sector. Keeping in view the growing demand for power in the country and the need for more investment in this sector, the Government of India, as part of further liberalization of the Foreign Direct Investment regime, has on June 12, 2000, decided to remove the upper limit for foreign direct investment in respect of projects relating to electric generation, transmission and distribution(other than atomic reactor plants).

The use of certain liquid hydro carbon liquid fuels for generation of electricity was permitted under the liquid fuel policy announced in

November, 1995 considering the shorter gestation period of liquid fuel based power projects as compared to thermal power projects and the need to have a quick capacity addition to avert a severe power crisis. Due to the spurt in international prices, naphtha is no longer considered a viable fuel for generation of electricity, also considering the difficulty in its handling. The State Governments are also now reluctant to encourage naphtha based power generation.

In order to accelerate the pace of hydro power development in the country, a Policy of Hydro Power Development was announced in August 1998. A favourable environment has been created to promote private sector investment in the field of hydro electric projects. The procedure for transfer of clearances have been streamlined and tariff rationalization have made such projects attractive. The Ranking Study recently carried out by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to create a shelf of feasible projects would facilitate the hydro developers to take up the implementation of potential sites in a phased manner in order of their ranking. CEA is also in the process of formulating a National Action Plan in consultation with the State Governments to harness the entire balance potential in the country.

Taking over of DPP

3291. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government for taking over the entire Dabhol Power Project directly or through its PSUs so that the power generated by DPP is distributed to different States in the country including Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request has not been agreed to.

Boost to hydro-power generation

3292. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study of the Asian Regional Research Programme in Energy, Environment and Climate (ARRPEEC) has stressed the need for a major boost to the hydro power generation in the country;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been drawn to adopt and promote